

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF

March 11, 2015



Deputy Janelle Thompson, #[redacted]
[redacted]

Dear Deputy Thompson:

On February 9, 2015, you were served with a Letter of Intention indicating your right to respond to the Sheriff's Department's pending disciplinary action against you, as reported under File Number IAB 2334436. You were also advised of your right to review the material on which the discipline was based.

You did not exercise your right to respond. The grievance period involved has now elapsed, with no change in discipline.

You are hereby notified that you are discharged from your position of Deputy Sheriff, Item No. 2708A, with this Department, effective as of the close of business on March 2, 2015.

An investigation under File Number IAB 2334436, conducted by Internal Affairs Bureau, coupled with your own statements, has established the following:

1. That in violation of Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections 3-01/030.10, Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders (as it pertains to 18 U.S.C. 371, 1001(a)(2) and/or 1012, Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development); and/or 3-01/030.05, General Behavior; and/or 3-01/000.10, Professional Conduct, on or about and between August 2005 through March 2012, while off duty, you conspired and defrauded the Federal Government of Section 8 housing funds, as evidenced by, but not limited to the following:

    a. On April 19, 2013, you were indicted by the Grand Jury with one felony count and five misdemeanor counts of Conspiracy, False Statements and Defrauding the United States

Government and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in violation of 18 USC 371, 1001(a)(2), and 1012; and/or,

b. On May 14, 2013, you surrendered yourself to the United States Marshals Service pursuant to the charges in indictment CR 13-0271 filed in the United States Central District Court; and/or,

c. On February 10, 2014, you entered into a plea agreement and pled guilty to four misdemeanor counts of Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a violation of 18 USC 1012; and/or,

d. As a result of your plea, you were placed on probation and agreed to make restitution in the amount of $69,427.50.

2. That in violation of Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections 3-01/040.70, False Statements; and/or 3-01/040.76, Obstructing an Investigation; and/or 3-01/040.85, Cooperation During Criminal Investigation, on or about January 12, 2012, you knowingly gave false information to a Special Agent of the Office of Inspector General for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development when you denied that [redacted] was your [redacted]

Additional facts for this decision are set forth in the Disposition Worksheet, Investigative Summary and Investigative Packet which are incorporated herein by reference.

In taking this disciplinary action, your record with this Department has been considered, and a thorough review of this incident has been made by Department executives, including your Unit and Division Commanders.

You may appeal the Department's action in this matter pursuant to Rules 4.02, 4.05 and 18.02 of the Civil Service Rules.

You may, if you so desire, within fifteen (15) business days from the date of service of this notice of discharge, request a hearing on these charges before the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission, 222 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90012.

The Sheriff's Department reserves the right to amend and/or add to this letter.

Sincerely,

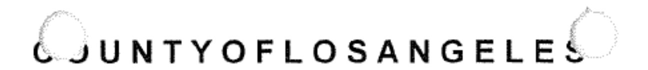
JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF

BOBBY D. DENHAM, CHIEF
CENTRAL PATROL DIVISION

Note: Attached for your convenience are excerpts of the applicable areas of the Manual of Policy and Procedures and Civil Service Rules.

BDD:EMS:DLM:vv

cc: Advocacy Unit
Bobby D. Denham, Chief, Central Patrol Division
Steven J. Sciacca, Captain, South Los Angeles Station
Internal Affairs Bureau
Judy A. Gerhardt, Captain, Personnel Administration



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service"

Date: February 5, 2015

File No: IAB IV #2334436

DISPOSITION SHEET

FROM: BOBBY D. DENHAM, CHIEF
CENTRAL PATROL DIVISION

TO: DONNIE L. MAULDIN, CAPTAIN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT: **JANELLE THOMPSON, #[redacted]**
DEPUTY SHERIFF GENERALIST
SOUTH LOS ANGELES STATION
CENTRAL PATROL DIVISION

Upon consideration of the facts developed in this investigation, I have determined that Subject Thompson be discharged from her position as a Deputy Sheriff for the reasons set forth in the attached documentation. This decision may be reconsidered based upon the employee's response.

BOBBY D. DENHAM, CHIEF — Date 2/5/15

CASE REVIEWED BY

RICHARD J. BARRANTES, ASSISTANT SHERIFF — Date 2-5-15

MICHAEL J. ROTHANS, ASSISTANT SHERIFF — Date 2/5/15

NEAL TYLER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER — Date 2/5/15

JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF — Date 2-5-15

JANELLE THOMPSON #[redacted] **IV2334436**
DEPUTY SHERIFF GENERALIST
SOUTH LOS ANGELES STATION
CENTRAL PATROL DIVISION

CHARGES:

The evidence developed in this investigation supports the following charges:

1. That in violation of Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections 3-01/030.10, Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders (as it pertains to 18 U.S.C. 371, 1001(a)(2) and/or 1012, Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development); and/or 3-01/030.05, General Behavior; and/or 3-01/000.10, Professional Conduct, on or about and between August 2005 through March 2012, while off duty, Subject Thompson conspired and defrauded the Federal Government of Section 8 housing funds, as evidenced by, but not limited to the following:

    a. On April 19, 2013, Subject Thompson was indicted by the Grand Jury with one felony count and five misdemeanor counts of Conspiracy, False Statements and Defrauding the United States Government and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in violation of 18 USC 371, 1001(a)(2), and 1012; and/or,

    b. On May 14, 2013, Subject Thompson surrendered herself to the United States Marshals Service pursuant to the charges in indictment CR 13-0271 filed in the United States Central District Court; and/or,

    c. On February 10, 2014, Subject Thompson entered into a plea agreement and pled guilty to four misdemeanor counts of Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a violation of 18 USC 1012; and/or,

    d. As a result of her plea, Subject Thompson was placed on probation and agreed to make restitution in the amount of $69,427.50.

2. That in violation of Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections 3-01/040.70, False Statements; and/or 3-01/040.76, Obstructing an Investigation; and/or 3-01/040.85, Cooperation During Criminal Investigation, on or about January 12, 2012, Subject Thompson knowingly gave false information to a Special Agent of the Office of Inspector General for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development when she denied that [redacted] was her [redacted].

Subject Thompson failed to maintain a level of moral conduct in keeping with the highest standards of the law enforcement profession and/or the Department's Core

Values. Subject Thompson's conduct brought discredit and embarrassment to herself and the Department.

SUMMARY:

On April 19, 2013, Subject Janelle Thompson was indicted by the Grand Jury in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The indictment alleged Subject Thompson, along with her [redacted], [redacted], conspired and made false statements in an effort to defraud the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. It was alleged in the indictment that the conspiracy was carried out beginning in August 2005 through approximately March 2012, and that Subject Thompson fraudulently obtained approximately $70,000.00 in housing assistance payments from HUD via her [redacted] rent subsidy.

On May 14, 2013, Subject Thompson appeared at the Roybal Federal Building, where she was taken into custody by the United States Marshals Service, pursuant to the indictment charges.

On February 10, 2014, Subject Thompson appeared in the United States District Court for the Central District of California and pled guilty to four misdemeanor counts of 18 U.S.C. 1012, defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On October 20, 2014, Subject Thompson appeared for sentencing in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Subject Thompson was sentenced to four concurrent, two year terms of probation and ordered to make restitution to the Housing Authority of the City of Buenaventura in the amount of $69,427.50.

On January 12, 2012, Subject Thompson was interviewed by a Special Agent of the Office of Inspector General for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of the fraud investigation of this matter. During that interview, Subject Thompson was questioned about her relationship to [redacted] (also under investigation and subsequently indicted for conspiracy to defraud the federal government). Subject Thompson denied that she was [redacted] to [redacted]. The Special Agent then showed Subject Thompson a copy of her [redacted] showing that [redacted] was her [redacted]. At that point, Subject Thompson admitted that she had lied and that [redacted] was in fact her [redacted].

DISCIPLINE ASSESSMENT

Review of Applicable *"Guidelines for Discipline"* Sections

The *Department's Guidelines for Discipline* lists the following analogous misconduct with associated disciplinary penalties:

Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders	Written Reprimand to Discharge
General Behavior	Written Reprimand to Discharge
False Statements	15 Days to Discharge
Obstructing an Investigation	15 Days to Discharge
Cooperation During Criminal Investigation	15 Days to Discharge
Professional Conduct	Written Reprimand to Discharge

ASSESSMENT OF MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Severity of Infraction:

It is the duty of all personnel to obey all laws. A commitment to obeying the law is imperative for those charged with enforcing the law. In this instance, defrauding the federal government is not only a criminal act, it is also an act of moral turpitude. Misconduct that calls into question an employee's credibility and/or integrity could compromise a criminal prosecution in which the employee was involved. Additionally, it could expose the employee to being impeached if called as a witness in any matter. The reputation of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is based on the credibility and integrity of its employees. These traits are critical to earning the public's confidence and trust. Subject Thompson's ability to testify in court could potentially be affected because she was convicted of defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Subject Thompson exposed herself and the Department to extreme embarrassment by placing herself in a situation she should have recognized as illegal and unethical. Subject Thompson told investigators she had purchased a property and allowed her

[redacted], to live in the residence under a HUD voucher, despite Federal regulations restricting such practices.

Intent, Truthfulness and Acceptance of Responsibility:

Although Subject Thompson has pled guilty and agreed to pay $69,427.50 in restitution, the explanations she has provided for her conduct appear to be an attempt to deflect responsibility for her role in this incident. She has failed to be truthful with authorities throughout the investigation of this matter, and does not appear to be accepting full responsibility for her conduct.

Degree of Culpability:

Subject Thompson is solely responsible for this incident.

Past Performance and Disciplinary History:

[redacted]

Determination of Discipline:

Based on the foregoing assessment of mitigating and aggravating factors, the following is the level of discipline to be assessed, subject to revision upon receiving the Subject's response or grievance:

__X__ Discharge

_____ Reduction in Rank

_____ Suspension with loss of pay and benefits for ____ days

_____ Written Reprimand

_____ No discipline recommended

761551N25A-SH-AD32A (2/72)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

A Tradition of Service

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 12, 2015
FILE NO. IV 2334436

FROM: DONNIE L. MAULDIN, CAPTAIN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

TO: STEVEN J. SCIACCA, CAPTAIN
SOUTH LOS ANGELES STATION

SUBJECT: **RETURN OF COMPLETED INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION TO UNIT**

The Internal Affairs Bureau Administrative Investigation involving Deputy Janelle Thompson, employee number [redacted], under file number IV 2334436, is complete. The PPI database was updated, indicating the case was sent to your unit for disposition and findings.

Please review the entire case and send your findings of violations, if any, of the Manual of Policy and Procedures through your division to Internal Affairs Bureau for final disposition and intent for discipline, if warranted.

Note: The internal statute date is February 9, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Dominic Valencia at 323-890-5300.

DLM:DJV:dv

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
IV2334436

SUBJECT:	Deputy Janelle Thompson #[redacted], South Los Angeles Station
LOCATION:	255 East Temple Street, Los Angeles California
DATE / TIME OF INCIDENT:	May 14, 2013 (Tuesday)
DATE OF DEPARTMENT KNOWLEDGE:	May 14, 2013

ALLEGATION

Deputy Thompson was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury for Conspiracy, False Statements and Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Subsequent to a guilty plea, she was convicted on four misdemeanor counts of Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

POLICY SECTION

Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders	3-01/030.10
Performance to Standards	3-01/050.10

SYNOPSIS

On April 19, 2013, Deputy Janelle Thompson was indicted by the Grand Jury in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles California. The Indictment, Case Number CR13-271 GAF **[Exhibit A]**, alleged Deputy Thompson, along with her [redacted], [redacted] conspired and made false statements in an effort to defraud the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. It was alleged in the Indictment that the conspiracy was carried out beginning in August, 2005, through approximately March, 2012 and that Janelle Thompson would fraudulently obtain approximately $70,000.00 in housing assistance payments from HUD, via her [redacted] rent subsidy.

On May 14, 2013, Deputy Thompson appeared at the Roybal Federal Building, located at 225 East Temple Street, Los Angeles California, where she was taken into custody by the United States Marshals Service, pursuant to the Indictment charges. At the conclusion of the Federal Booking process, she was released from custody on her own recognizance.

On February 10, 2014, Deputy Thompson appeared in the United States District Court for the Central District of California and pled guilty **[Criminal Minutes, Exhibit B]** to four misdemeanor counts of 18 U.S.C. 1012, Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Specifically, Counts 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Indictment.

On October 20, 2014, Deputy Thompson appeared for sentencing in the United States District Court for the Central District of California **[Judgment and Probation/Commitment Order, Exhibit C]**. She was sentenced to (4) concurrent, two year terms of probation and ordered to make restitution to the Housing Authority of the City of Buenaventura in the amount of, $69,427.50.

IAB Investigators obtained an investigative packet **[Exhibit D]** from the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, which was the agency responsible for locally administering the Section 8 Program from the United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development. The packet contained documents identifying [redacted] as a tenant participant in the HUD Voucher Program and Deputy Thompson as the, "Landlord" receiving [redacted] rent subsidy

IAB Note: The investigative packet **[Exhibit D]** was not available to IAB investigators at the time of Deputy Thompson's IAB Interview.

INTERVIEWS

The following interview summaries were based on statements provided by witnesses and the subject during audio recorded interviews. For complete detailed statements, refer to the digital audio recordings or transcripts of the interview included in this investigation.

Subject Deputy Janelle Thompson

On December 30, 2014, Internal Affairs Bureau Investigator Sergeants John Adams and Jeff Smith interviewed Deputy Thompson at Internal Affairs Bureau. Deputy Thompson was interviewed as a Subject and afforded Subject Rights. She was represented by Attorney Charles Goldwasser from the law offices of Charles Goldwasser. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The audio file and transcripts were submitted with this case. The following is a summary of the interview.

Deputy Thompson told investigators she was the subject of a federal fraud investigation stemming from a real estate transaction in Ventura California. She explained she had

purchased a property and allowed her [redacted], [redacted] to live in the residence under a HUD voucher, despite Federal regulations restricting such practices.

IAB Note: See Page 2, Lines 15-17 of the Indictment **[Exhibit A]** regarding restrictions pertaining to Federal subsidies and landlord/tenant relationships.

Deputy Thompson said she was aware of, but disregarded the regulation prohibiting the receipt of her [redacted] rent subsidy. She said her decision to disregard the regulations were based on her belief that her [redacted] legally qualified for the HUD Voucher Program and had not been provided with a reason on why such practices were prohibited.

IAB Note: Pages 4-5 of the Indictment **[Exhibit A]** pertain to Count 1 and allege Deputy Thompson's [redacted] misrepresented the amount of income and assets within the household, thus fraudulently obtaining Federal subsidies via the HUD Voucher Program.

Deputy Thompson told investigators the Federal investigation ultimately led to her indictment and arrest. She surrendered herself to the U.S. Marshall's Service at the Roybal Federal Building where she was booked, arraigned and released on her own recognizance. During subsequent court proceedings, Deputy Thompson pled guilty to four misdemeanor counts of Defrauding the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to make restitution.

Deputy Thompson told investigators it was never her intent to defraud the Federal Government and had only endeavored to provide a safe living environment for her [redacted] and [redacted], both of whom were disabled.

IAB Note: Pages 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the Indictment **[Exhibit A]** pertain to Deputy Thompson's (4) guilty pleas pursuant to 18 U.S. 1012 and provide, in part, "Defendant Janelle Thompson, received compensation and reward intending to defraud HUD and unlawfully defeat its purpose."

When asked why she pled guilty to the four counts of fraud, Deputy Thompson indicated it was a legal decision based on the fact monies from the HUD Voucher Program were deposited directly into her bank account.

IAB Note: Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) records contained in **Exhibit D**, reflect Deputy Thompson received the voucher payments in the form of a hard copy check from May 1, 2008 through September 1, 2008. From September 1, 2008 through March 31, 2012, the payments were made via ACH direct deposit. Payment records prior to May 1, 2008 were unavailable, as San Buenaventura Housing Authority payment records were not automated.

In reference to Deputy Thompson's probation status. Deputy Thompson acknowledged she was under the supervision of the United States Probation Office for a period of two years.

In reference to Deputy Thompson's sentencing. Deputy Thompson acknowledged her requirements to make restitution and had developed a payment plan to the Housing Authority of the City of Buenaventura.

Deputy Thompson concluded that she did not believe her criminal conviction would have a negative impact on her ability to carry out her duties as a law enforcement officer. She reasoned her "Misstep" was in 2005 and that she had performed her job beyond that period.